

North Carolina Court Reporters

Court Reporter FTE

- 105 FTE.
- 12 vacancies.
- Average salary: \$54,131.
- Minimum salary: \$38,840.
- Maximum salary: \$80,196.
- FY 2013-14 Certified Budget: \$7.7 million.
- As of January 31, 2014.

Transcript Fees

Court reporters charge a per-page transcript fee to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and the Office of Indigent Defense Services (IDS) on top of their annual salary. This rate is currently \$1.25 per page or \$1.50 per page if the transcript needs to be expedited. In criminal cases involving indigent defendants, IDS pays \$0.875 per page and AOC pays \$0.375 per page. In FY 2013-14, the certified budget for transcripts for both AOC and IDS is \$474,268.

2013 Appropriations Bill

In the Senate version of S.B. 402, the 2013 Appropriations Bill, the Senate eliminated half (52 FTE) of the State court reporter positions and cut 25 percent of the court reporter budget. Of the remaining 75 percent of the budget, 50 percent was to be used to maintain the remaining 53 FTE and the other 25 percent was to be used to contract with third parties for court reporting services. The Senate funded \$1.0 million in nonrecurring funds to provide for audio equipment in courtrooms to replace court reporters.

The House version of S.B. 402 made no changes to the court reporter budget.

The final bill, S.L. 2013-360, Sec. 18B.21 directed AOC to report on the most effective and efficient deployment of court reporters and the most appropriate payment by February 1, 2014. S.L. 2013-360, Sec. 18B.21A directed AOC to set limits on the compensation of court reporters so that both the agency and the Office of Indigent Defense Services pay no more than 50 percent of the per-transcript-page rate paid during the 2011-13 fiscal biennium. In FY 2012-13, court reporters charged \$2.50 per page or \$3.00 per page if expedited. In criminal cases involving indigent defendants, IDS paid \$1.75 per page and AOC paid \$0.75 per page. The current rate is half of that. In FY 2012-13, the State spent \$1,005,333 million on transcripts (\$348,653 from AOC and \$656,680 from IDS). In FY 2013-14, the certified budget for transcripts for both AOC and IDS is \$474,268 (\$113,513 from AOC and \$360,755 from IDS). Any costs above the budgeted amount will be covered with lapsed salary funds.